

Dear Members of Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Sonia Zelaya, and I am a resident of Manchester, Ct. I am also part of USIC- Uniting For a Safe Inclusive Community - Manchester.

I stand in support of SB284: An act to increase the age from Eight to Eighteen years for an Income-Eligible Person to obtain Medical Assistance Regardless of Immigration status. Expanding access to **Husky** up to 18 regardless of immigration status is such an important step in making sure our immigrant community has access to the **healthcare we all need and deserve**. But our work doesn't end with expanding access up to 18; we need to open access to Husky and health care to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults.

I have heard too many horrendous stories of individuals with; what I believe to be serious health problems, even an undetected cholesterol problem can easily turn into a major health issue and even death. although, I am fortunate enough to work for a company which provides health insurance to their employees, but I relate the anxiety they feel to the time I had a brain tumor removed, but at the time I had limited health insurance coverage therefore, I was left with many high balance medical bills.

From the bottom of my heart I ask the committee to support the passage of bill SB284.

Thank you for your time,

Sonia Zelaya.  
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